

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically defined medium for fermentation culture of a strain of the genus *Candida*, which comprises 5-300 g/l of xylose, 1-10 g/l of urea, 1-10g/l of potassium diphosphate, 0.01-1 g/l of magnesium sulfate, 0.1-10 mg/l of MnSO₄ · 4H₂O, 0.1-10mg/l of CoCl₂ · 6H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of NaMoO₄ · 2H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of ZnS0₄ · 7H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of AlCl₃ · 6H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of CuCl₂ · 2H₂O, 0.01-5 mg/l of H₃BO₃, 1-100 mg/l of FeSO₄ · 7H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of ascorbic acid, 1-100 mg/l of biotin, 1-100 mg/l of choline, and 0.1-10 mg/l of pyridoxine.

2. (Original) A process for producing xylitol in high yield by recycling culture of a strain of the genus *Candida*, which comprises the steps of :

inoculating the strain in a xylose-containing medium and culturing the strain in the xylose-containing medium in a bioreactor;

releasing a culture from the bioreactor and introducing a fresh xylosecontaining medium to the bioreactor continuously;

separating the strain and a culture filtrate from the culture; and
recycling the strain to the bioreactor and recovering xylitol from the culture filtrate.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the strain of the genus *Candida* is *Candida tropicalis* or its mutant strain.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the xylose-containing medium is [[the]] a chemically defined medium that comprises 5-300 g/l of xylose, 1-10 g/l of urea, 1-10 g/l of potassium diphosphate, 0.01-1 g/l of magnesium sulfate, 0.1-10 mg/l of MnSO₄ · 4H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of CoCl₂ · 6H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of NaMoO₄ · 2H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of ZnSO₄ · 7H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of AlCl₃ · 6H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of CuCl₂ · 2H₂O, 0.01-5 mg/l of H₃BO₃, 1-100 mg/l of FeSO₄ · 7H₂O, 0.1-10 mg/l of ascorbic acid, 1-100 mg/l of biotin, 1-100 mg/l of choline, and 0.1-10 mg/l of pyridoxine; or a complex medium.

5. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the culturing is performed by a fed-batch culture or a batch culture.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5, wherein in the fed-batch culture, the medium is gradually supplemented with xylose so that the concentration of xylose is maintained at 40-50 g/l on the basis of the medium.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

8. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the separation of the strain and the culture filtrate from the culture is performed by a vacuum microfiltration system or a centrifuge.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the separated strain is concentrated to a density of 10-100 g/l and recycled.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

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11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 6, wherein the culturing is performed at an agitation speed of 400-600 rpm.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the separated strain is concentrated to a density of 10-100 g/l and recycled.